

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A polygon rendering device, comprising:

a polygon division section for generating, based on polygon data which specifies a polygon to be rendered, a plurality of partial polygon data each specifying one piece of partial polygons which are obtained by dividing the polygon; and

a partial polygon rendering section for performing a rendering process, and based on the partial polygon data generated by said polygon division section, generating image data which represents an image of the polygon, wherein

each of said partial polygons include a plurality of triangles which respectively include a vertex of said polygon, and

each of the triangles shares at least one edge with any one of the triangles included in the same partial polygon.

2. The polygon rendering device according to claim 1, wherein

said polygon data includes a set of coordinates for specifying said polygon,

an unwanted point elimination section for applying an elimination process to said polygon data is further comprised to generate new polygon data from which any unwanted set of coordinates is eliminated, and

10 said polygon division section generates said partial polygon data in accordance with the new polygon data which is obtained by the unwanted point elimination section.

3. The polygon rendering device according to claim 1, further comprising a concave polygon determination section for determining whether or not said polygon data specifies a concave polygon, wherein

5 said polygon division section generates said partial polygon data based on the polygon data which is determined as specifying the concave polygon by said polygon division section.

4. The polygon rendering device according to claim 1, wherein said partial polygon rendering section performs a perspective projection transformation process based on the partial polygon data generated by said polygon division section,
5 and generates image data which represents the image of said polygon viewed from a predetermined viewpoint.

5. The polygon rendering device according to claim 1, wherein

said polygon data includes n sets of vertex coordinates P_1 to P_n of said polygon in such an order that the polygon can
5 be rendered in one stroke in a forward direction,
said polygon division section

selects one of the vertex coordinates P_1 to P_n of said polygon data as a reference vertex P_b ($b=1, 2, \dots, n$), and in said forward direction, selects a vertex P_c positioning adjacent to the reference vertex P_b and a vertex $P(c+1)$ positioning adjacent to the vertex P_c , and a triangle $\triangle P_b P_c P(c+1)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes P_c and $P(c+1)$ carries, in and on, no other vertex P_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $i \neq b, i \neq c, i \neq c+1$) belonging to said polygon and not yet selected, and an angle $\angle P_b P_c P(c+1)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes P_c and $P(c+1)$ is smaller than 180 degrees,

selects, in addition to said reference vertex P_b and said vertex $P(c+1)$, a vertex $P(c+2)$ which positions adjacent to the vertex $P(c+1)$ in said forward direction, and a triangle $\triangle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes $P(c+1)$ and $P(c+2)$ carries no other vertex P_j ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $j \neq b, j \neq c, j \neq c+1, j \neq c+2$) which belongs to said polygon and not yet selected, and an angle $\angle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes $P(c+1)$ and $P(c+2)$ is smaller than 180 degrees, and

generates the partial polygon data specifying at least the partial polygon formed by said reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes $P_c, P(c+1)$, and $P(c+2)$.

6. The polygon rendering device according to claim 5,

wherein said polygon division section

sets, when the vertex $P(c+2)$ selected thereby satisfies
a condition that said triangle $\triangle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ carries, in and
5 on, no other vertex P_j , and said angle $\angle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ is smaller
than 180 degrees, said vertex $P(c+2)$ as the vertex $P(c+1)$,

keeps selecting, until said condition is not satisfied
any more, together with said reference vertex P_b and the newly-set
vertex $P(c+1)$, a new vertex $P(c+2)$ which positions adjacent to
the newly set vertex $P(c+1)$, and

generates the partial polygon data which specifies the
partial polygon formed by said reference vertex P_b , said vertexes
 P_c and $P(c+1)$, and at least one of the vertexes $P(c+2)$.

7. A polygon rendering method, comprising:

a polygon division step of generating, based on polygon
data which specifies a polygon to be rendered, a plurality of
partial polygon data each specifying one piece of partial polygons
5 which are obtained by dividing the polygon; and

a partial polygon rendering step of performing a
rendering process, and based on the partial polygon data generated
in said polygon division step, generating image data which
represents an image of the polygon, wherein

10 each of said partial polygons includes a plurality of
triangles which respectively include a vertex of said polygon,
and

each of the triangles shares at least one edge with any one of the triangles included in the same partial polygon.

8. The polygon rendering method according to claim 7, wherein

said polygon data includes n sets of vertex coordinates P_1 to P_n of said polygon in such an order that the polygon can be rendered in one stroke in a forward direction,

said polygon division step

includes a first selection step of selecting one of the vertex coordinates P_1 to P_n of said polygon data as a reference vertex P_b ($b=1, 2, \dots, n$), and in said forward direction,

selecting a vertex P_c positioning adjacent to the reference vertex P_b and a vertex $P(c+1)$ positioning adjacent to the vertex P_c ,

in said first selection step, a triangle $\triangle P_b P_c P(c+1)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes P_c and $P(c+1)$ carries, in and on, no other vertex P_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$,

and $i \neq b, i \neq c, i \neq c+1$) belonging to said polygon and not yet selected, and an angle $\angle P_b P_c P(c+1)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes P_c and $P(c+1)$ is smaller than 180 degrees, and

includes a second selection step of selecting, in addition to said reference vertex P_b and said vertex $P(c+1)$, a vertex $P(c+2)$ which positions adjacent to the vertex $P(c+1)$ in said forward direction,

in said second selection step, a triangle $\triangle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes $P(c+1)$ and $P(c+2)$ carries no other vertex P_j ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $j \neq b, j \neq c, j \neq c+1, j \neq c+2$) which belongs to said polygon and not yet selected, and an angle $\angle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes $P(c+1)$ and $P(c+2)$ is smaller than 180 degrees, and

30 said polygon division step generates the partial polygon data specifying at least the partial polygon formed by said reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes P_c , and $P(c+1)$ selected in said first selection step, and said vertex $P(c+2)$ selected in said second step.

9. The polygon rendering method according to claim 8, wherein

5 said polygon division step further includes a setting step of setting said vertex $P(c+2)$ to the vertex $P(c+1)$ when the vertex $P(c+2)$ selected in said second selection step satisfies a condition that said triangle $\triangle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ carries, in and on, no other vertex P_j , and said angle $\angle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ is smaller than 180 degrees,

10 said second selection step keeps selecting, until said condition is not satisfied any more, together with said reference vertex P_b selected in said first selection step, and said vertex $P(c+1)$ newly set in said setting step, a new vertex $P(c+2)$ which

positions adjacent to the newly-set vertex $P(c+1)$, and

15 said polygon division step generates the partial polygon data which specifies the partial polygon formed by said reference vertex P_b , and said vertexes P_c and $P(c+1)$ selected in said first selection step, and the vertex $P(c+2)$ selected in said second selection step.

10. A polygon rendering program, comprising:

5 a polygon division step of generating, based on polygon data which specifies a polygon to be rendered, a plurality of partial polygon data each specifying one piece of partial polygons which are obtained by dividing the polygon; and

a partial polygon rendering step of performing a rendering process, and based on the partial polygon data generated in said polygon division step, generating image data which represents an image of the polygon, wherein

10 each of said partial polygons includes a plurality of triangles which respectively include a vertex of said polygon, and

each of the triangles shares at least one edge with any one of the triangles included in the same partial polygon.

11. The polygon rendering program according to claim 10, wherein

said polygon data includes n sets of vertex coordinates

5 P_1 to P_n of said polygon in such an order that the polygon can be rendered in one stroke in a forward direction,

said polygon division step

includes a first selection step of selecting one of the vertex coordinates P_1 to P_n of said polygon data as a reference vertex P_b ($b=1, 2, \dots, n$), and in said forward direction, selecting a vertex P_c positioning adjacent to the reference vertex P_b and a vertex $P(c+1)$ positioning adjacent to the vertex P_c ,

in said first selection step, a triangle $\triangle P_b P_c P(c+1)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes P_c and $P(c+1)$ carries, in and on, no other vertex P_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $i \neq b, i \neq c, i \neq c+1$) belonging to said polygon and not yet selected, and an angle $\angle P_b P_c P(c+1)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes P_c and $P(c+1)$ is smaller than 180 degrees, and

includes a second selection step of selecting, in addition to said reference vertex P_b and said vertex $P(c+1)$, a vertex $P(c+2)$ which positions adjacent to the vertex $P(c+1)$ in said forward direction,

in said second selection step, a triangle $\triangle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes $P(c+1)$ and $P(c+2)$ carries no other vertex P_j ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $j \neq b, j \neq c, j \neq c+1, j \neq c+2$) which belongs to said polygon and not yet selected, and an angle $\angle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ formed by the reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes $P(c+1)$ and $P(c+2)$ is smaller

than 180 degrees, and

30 said polygon division step generates the partial polygon data specifying at least the partial polygon formed by said reference vertex P_b , and the vertexes P_c , and $P(c+1)$ selected in said first selection step, and said vertex $P(c+2)$ selected in said second step.

12. The polygon rendering program according to claim 10, wherein

5 said polygon division step further includes a setting step of setting said vertex $P(c+2)$ to the vertex $P(c+1)$ when the vertex $P(c+2)$ selected in said second selection step satisfies a condition that said triangle $\triangle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ carries, in and on, no other vertex P_j , and said angle $\angle P_b P(c+1) P(c+2)$ is smaller than 180 degrees,

10 said second selection step keeps selecting, until said condition is not satisfied any more, together with said reference vertex P_b selected in said first selection step, and said vertex $P(c+1)$ newly set in said second selection step, a new vertex $P(c+2)$ which positions adjacent to the newly set vertex $P(c+1)$, and

15 said polygon division step generates the partial polygon data which specifies the partial polygon formed by said reference vertex P_b , and said vertexes P_c and $P(c+1)$ selected in said first selection step, and the vertex $P(c+2)$ selected in said second selection step.

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